

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 CU-02 SSC-01 /077 W
-----120825Z 041328 /16

R 120530B JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3086
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 4067

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, AF
SUBJECT: NUMEROUS PERSONNEL CHANGES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERIOR MINISTRIES

1. SUMMARY. RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED ON THE
EVENING OF JUNE 7 SEVERAL TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS
IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), THE CREA-
TION OF A NEW PROVINCE, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF ELEVEN
NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS. END SUMMARY.

2. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST AMONG THE MFA APPOINTMENTS
WAS THE PROMOTION OF ABDUL SAMAD GHAUS, ONE OF THE
MOST CAPABLE AFGHAN DIPLOMATS AND FORMER DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, TO
THE NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF DEPUTY MINISTER FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MAKING HIM THE NUMBER TWO TO
MINISTER-IN-CHARGE WAHEED ABDULLAH. AT THE SAME
TIME, DR. ABDUL FARID RASHID WAS PROMOTED TO THE
POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
AND MOHAMMAD MIRZA SAMAH WAS NAMED AS DIRECTOR
OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL-ECONOMIC RELA-
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TIONS DEPARTMENT. (COMMENT: WE HAD HEARD
RUMORS THAT RASHID HAD BEEN IN LINE FOR PROMO-
TION TO A DIRECTOR GENERALSHIP IN ORDER TO
BALANCE GHAUS' INCUMBENCY AT THIS LEVEL, BUT
EVIDENTLY THE LATTER HAS PROVEN SUFFICIENTLY
ADEPT AT BUREAUCRATIC MANEUVERING IN THAT HE
HAS BEEN ABLE TO RETAIN HIS NUMBER TWO SPOT BY

OBTAINING A PROMOTION HIMSELF.)

3. THE SECOND POLITICAL SECTION OF THE MFA (MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA) WILL RECEIVE A NEW DIRECTOR, MOHAMMAD SEDDIQ SALJOOQUE, WHO CURRENTLY IS AFGHAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON. SALJOOQUE WILL BE REPLACED BY GHULAM FAROUQ TORABAZ, A SENIOR DIPLOMAT WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN MARKING TIME IN THE MFA AS "DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH".

4. THE CREATION OF A TWENTY-SEVENTH PROVINCE (THE SUB-PROVINCIAL WOLESWALI OF KONAR HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM NANGARHAR PROVINCE AND MADE AUTONOMOUS), THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW GOVERNORS FOR ELEVEN OTHERS, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DEPUTY MINISTER (GHULAM NAQSHBAND DASHTI, FORMER GOVERNOR OF BAMIAN PROVINCE), REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENTS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. SIX OF THE ELEVEN NEW GUBERNATORIAL ASSIGNMENTS, HOWEVER, CONSIST OF TRANSFERS OF INCUMBENTS FROM ONE PROVINCE TO ANOTHER, AND THIS, COUPLED WITH THE PROMOTION OF DASHTI, WOULD LEAD US TO CONCLUDE, INITIALLY AT LEAST, THAT THESE APPOINTMENTS ESSENTIALLY CONSTITUTE VOTES OF CONFIDENCE BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN CERTAIN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN JUDGED TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE.

5. ONE INTERESTING TWIST IN THE NEW LINEUP OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOVERNORS, HOWEVER, IS THE REHABILITATION THEME. MOHAMMAD HASHEM SAFI -- NAMED AS GOVERNOR OF BALKH PROVINCE -- IS THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF KABUL WHO WAS REMOVED FROM HIS POST EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR ALLEGEDLY CONDUCTING "UNDEMOCRATIC" ELECTIONS FOR LOYA JIRGAH DELEGATES FROM HIS PROVINCE;. (COMMENT: WE HAVE HEARD THAT SAFI CLAIMS TO POSSESS A WRITTEN COPY OF HIS ORDERS JUSTIFYING HIS ACTIONS DURING THESE ELECTIONS, SO PERHAPS HE WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE PERMANENT LIMBO BY USING THIS DOCUMENT AS A LEVER.) THE NEW GOVERNOR OF KABUL IS ABDUL HAKIM, FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE UNDER THE MONARCHY IN THE EARLY 1970S. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HAKIM HAS BEEN UNEMPLOYED SINCE BEFORE THE 1973 COUP, AND THE DATA AVAILABLE HERE INDICATE THAT DURING HIS TENURE IN THE GOVERNMENT HE WAS VERY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES (HE HAS A B.A. FROM WYOMING AND A M.A. FROM TEXAS A&M).

6. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO U.S. AID PROGRAMS
WILL BE THE NEW GOVERNOR TDF HELMAND PROVINCE,
ABDULLAH NIK, WHO HAS AN M.S. DEGREE FROM KANSAS
STATE, AND WHO WENT TO THE U.S. IN 1974 AS AN
AID GRANTEE. NIK'S CAREER HAS BEEN IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND MOST RECENTLY HE
WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXTENSION AND DEVELOP-
MENT DEPARTMENT IN THE MINISTRY. HE WILL REPLACE
ABDUL HOMAMMAD SHERZOI, A LONG-TIME OFFICIAL IN
THAT REGION WHO WAS REASONABLY COOPERATIVE WITH
US REGARDING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE HELMAND
VALLEY.

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ACTION NEA-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 4067

7. CONCEIVABLY, THE CREATION OF A NEW PROVINCE
OF KONAR -- ENCOMPASSING AS IT DOES A POLITICALLY
SENSITIVE AREA ALONG THE PAKISTAN BORDER -- MIGHT
REFLECT KABUL'S INCREASED DESIRE TO AUGMENT ITS
CONTROL IN A REGION WHICH HAS BEEN OBSTREPEROUS
IN THE PAST, WHICH IS A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF
OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION, AND WHICH ABUTS THE
PRINCIPAL ROUTE TO THE KHYBER PASS.

8. FURTHER DETAILS OF THESE PERSONNEL CHANGES
WILL BE POUCHED VIA AIRGRAM.
WOODWARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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From: KABUL
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